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(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, §3, 69 Stat. 487; June 21, 1961, Pub. L. 87-56, §2, 75 Stat. 95.)

AMENDMENTS

1961—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 87-56 inserted “Air Force Cross” after “Distinguished Service Cross.”.

§ 634. Powers of corporation

The corporation shall have power—

- (1) to have succession by its corporate name;
- (2) to sue and be sued, complain and defend in any court of competent jurisdiction;
- (3) to adopt, use, and alter a corporate seal;
- (4) to charge and collect membership dues;
- (5) to adopt, amend, and alter a constitution and bylaws, not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any State in which the corporation is to operate, for the management of its property and the regulation of its affairs;
- (6) to contract and be contracted with;
- (7) to take by lease, gift, purchase, grant, devise, or bequest from any private corporation, association, partnership, firm, or individual and to hold any property, real, personal, or mixed, necessary or convenient for attaining the objects and carrying into effect the purposes of the corporation, subject, however, to applicable provisions of law of any State (A) governing the amount or kind of property which may be held by, or (B) otherwise limiting or controlling the ownership of property by, a corporation operating in such State;
- (8) to transfer, convey, lease, sublease, encumber, and otherwise alienate real, personal or mixed property; and
- (9) to borrow money for the purposes of the corporation, issue bonds therefor, and secure the same by mortgage, deed of trust, pledge, or otherwise, subject in every case to all applicable provisions of Federal and State laws.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, §4, 69 Stat. 487.)

§ 635. Principal office; territorial scope of activities; agent for service of process

(a) The principal office of the corporation shall be located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, or in such other place as may later be determined by the board of directors, but the activities of the corporation shall not be confined to that place and may be conducted throughout the various States, Territories, and possessions of the United States.

(b) The corporation shall have in the District of Columbia at all times a designated agent authorized to accept service of process for the corporation; and notice to or service upon such agent, or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed notice to or service upon the corporation.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, §5, 69 Stat. 487.)

§ 636. Membership

(a) Eligibility

All persons of good moral character who are, have been, or may become members of the

Armed Forces of the United States or any foreign country of whatever rank, who have received or who may hereafter receive a Congressional Medal of Honor, a Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or a Navy Cross awarded for acts of extraordinary heroism in connection with military or naval operations against an armed enemy, or for heroism of a specially distinguished character, shall be eligible for active membership in the corporation.

(b) Extension of eligibility to parents and descendants

The corporation shall have the power, moreover, to extend eligibility for membership, either active or associate, to parents and lineal descendants of the persons described in subsection (a) of this section under such conditions and upon such terms as the corporation may specify in its constitution and bylaws.

(c) Voting rights

Each member of the corporation, other than associate members, shall have the right to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at all meetings of the members of the corporation.

(d) Exception

Notwithstanding the limitations set out in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, any member in good standing of the corporate body referred to in section 646 of this title shall be admitted on request to comparable membership in the corporation created by this chapter.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, §6, 69 Stat. 488; June 21, 1961, Pub. L. 87-56, §2, 75 Stat. 95.)

AMENDMENTS

1961—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 87-56 inserted “Air Force Cross” after “Distinguished Service Cross.”.

§ 637. Governing body

(a) Composition

Upon the enactment of this chapter the membership of the initial board of directors of the corporation shall consist of the present officers of the Army and Navy Legion of Valor, referred to in section 646 of this title, or such of them as may then be living and are qualified officers of that corporation, to wit: William Oliver Smith, of Raleigh, North Carolina; Peter Paul Martinek, of Glendale, California; Lucian Adams, of San Antonio, Texas; Edgar H. Bain, of Goldsboro, North Carolina; and Ben Prager, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who are respectively, the commander, the senior vice commander, the junior vice commander, the chaplain, and the adjutant and quartermaster.

(b) Tenure

Thereafter, the board of directors of the corporation shall consist of such number (not less than ten), shall be selected in such manner (including the filling of vacancies), and shall serve for such terms as may be prescribed in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

(c) Duties

The board of directors shall be the governing board of the corporation and shall, during the intervals between corporation meetings, be responsible for the general policies and program of